

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Claims 5, 6 and 8-12 are cancelled above. Claim 1 is amended above. No new matter is added by the claim amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

The Abstract section of the specification is objected to for reasons stated in the Office Action. The Abstract is amended above in a manner consistent with suggestions provided in the Office Action. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

The Applicant notes, with appreciation, that the Office Action indicates at paragraph 6 that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of former claims 5 and 6, now canceled. Entry of the amendment and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

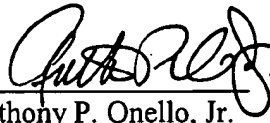
Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected as being unpatentable over Blanz (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,606). Claims 2 & 7 are rejected as being unpatentable over Blanz in view of Blandin (U.S. Patent No. 4,782,291). It is submitted that this rejection no longer applies in view of the above amendment to claim 1. Removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested. With regard to the various dependent claims, it follows that these claims should inherit the allowability of the independent claims from which they depend.

Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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